

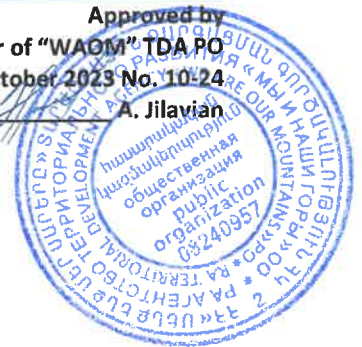


WE ARE OUR MOUNTAINS

Territorial Development
Agency

Approved by
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Report of the "We Are Our Mountains" territorial development agency 1 October 2023

"We Are Our Mountains" is a territorial development agency established by Ruben Vardanyan and partners at the end of 2022. It seeks to realize impactful programs in close cooperation with state, local, public and private institutions. The Agency's programs have been focused on supporting the Artsakh people.

PROJECTS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2022 AND MAY 2023

During the period from November 2022 to May 2023, the Agency's activities were mainly directed towards implementing social impact projects in Artsakh, aimed both at meeting the priority needs of the population under the blockade and at long-term social development. Overall, during this period, the projects below covering almost all spheres of life of the Artsakh people were implemented.

1. ARTSAKH FOOD RESERVE REPLENISHMENT

The goal of the project was to replenish the food reserve for the residents of Artsakh with long-shelf-life products of high nutritional value. Preference was given to purchasing powdered and/or flake food, cereals, and pasta, which were optimal in terms of transportation, storage, and energy value to ensure the normal functioning of the population of Artsakh in emergency conditions.

As part of the project, the Agency and partners purchased and transferred to the Government of Artsakh's warehouse in Armenia (Goris), for its use, more than 187 tons of food worth over \$449,800. Some 96 more tons of food were transferred directly to the Government by the Agency's partners.

Due to the blockade, the Government was unable to transport most of the food received to Artsakh. The Agency's plan is to claim back the specified food and distribute it to forcibly displaced people from Artsakh now in Armenia.

2. ASSISTING THE ENERGY SYSTEM OF ARTSAKH

The goal of the project was to increase energy security, as well as the reliability of water supply to

the population in case of an energy blockade of Artsakh. Within the framework of the project the following was carried out:

- Acquisition and installation of emergency diesel generators and electric batteries at key points of the pump water supply system in the cities of Stepanakert and Martuni, which made it possible to ensure water supply to these cities in conditions of power outages;
- Purchase of portable solar power generators for use in the field;
- Purchase of wood stoves for families in need, and for educational and medical institutions. This made it possible to heat houses, schools and hospitals in Stepanakert and the regions during the energy blockade, especially vital in the winter months. The stoves were purchased and transferred to the relevant government organizations for further distribution by partner organizations with the Agency's support.

The above goods were transferred to government bodies and organizations in Artsakh to meet the needs of the population. The total amount allocated for the implementation of the project was over \$186,700.

3. GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF ARTSAKH

The goal of the project was to provide gifts to more than 12,000 Artsakh children under the age of ten. Gifts including toys, children's books, and educational games were presented to children for Easter. The project cost was about \$171,700.

4. MOBILE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS

The project involved the creation of three mobile teams (including a general practitioner and a nurse) to provide primary health care to residents of the villages of Martuni, Askeran and Martakert regions of Artsakh. The partners in the implementation of the project were the HENAR Charitable Foundation and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Artsakh. One of the teams operated successfully for several months and served the Martuni region of Artsakh. The creation of the other two teams was prevented by the blockade of Artsakh. The total amount expended on the partial implementation of the project was over \$109,800.

5. RESTORATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN ARTSAKH

The project involved the purchase of building materials and repair and restoration work in residential buildings damaged as the result of shelling during the 2020 war.

Due to the blockade, the project was implemented only partially. As part of the project, the Agency's partners purchased building materials and transferred them to the Government of Artsakh's warehouse in Armenia (Goris), for its use.

However, because of the blockade, the Government was unable to transport most of the construction materials to Artsakh. The Agency's plan is to claim back the specified construction materials and transfer them to the regional administration of Syunik region for the renovation of houses allocated to forcibly displaced persons from Artsakh.

6. "EDUCATIONAL KALEIDOSCOPE" ARTSAKH FESTIVAL FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING

The project included a series of educational programs for all age groups of the population in the

cities and villages of Artsakh. The implementation partners of the project were the Matena International School of Leadership and Professional Development, the educational program for high school and university students “Climate Uturn” and the Scholae Mundi Armenia Charitable Foundation.

The project involved the implementation of several initiatives such as the Agrocamp, the Matena leadership development program, the CaseKey entrepreneurship competition, first aid courses, computer training courses, etc. The number of participants was around 500. The total project cost was about \$45,600.

7. “DAVID BEK” SPORTS AND TACTICAL GAMES

The project involved the organization of sports and tactical games “David Bek” with the involvement of 120 schoolchildren aged 15–17 years, including an outdoors children’s camp for boys and girls. The implementation partner of the project was the Alliance of Youth Clubs. The project itself was successfully implemented in July-August this year. The project cost was \$84,000.

8. CALL-CENTER “3333”

To improve the targeting and efficiency of implemented projects, the Agency established a system of feedback with the population of Artsakh through the establishment of a multi-channel call center in Stepanakert. During the 5-month period of its activity, the call center received more than 4,000 calls and requests. The project cost amounted to over \$10,700.

Concern for the preservation of the national culture of the Artsakh Armenians, and the development of the spiritual, linguistic, and intellectual environment was also on the Agency’s radar. To address it, the Agency initiated the establishment of the “Our Mountains” community center, as well as a new Armenian language radio station.

9. “OUR MOUNTAINS” COMMUNITY CENTER

The “Our Mountains” community center, created by the Agency in Stepanakert, was a platform for many cultural, educational, and other initiatives carried out by partner organizations and which began to play a significant role in the public life of Artsakh. Films, concerts, exhibitions, various courses, psychological assistance for children with special needs, a forum of youth organizations and retraining courses for women are examples of activities held at the center by various public organizations and groups. With the library as a resource for the public, the platform was provided for free use by partners, and they were supported in other ways as necessary. The cost of the center’s activities for 8-month operation amounted to over \$189,200.

The analytical activities of the center included procuring a report “Economic losses of Artsakh due to the blockade”, which was produced by a group of economists and other experts.

10. RADIO “OUR MOUNTAINS”

The news and music radio station “Our Mountains” began broadcasting on 1 May 2023 in Stepanakert and other regions of Artsakh. At the time it was the only non-state Armenian-language radio station in Artsakh. The project cost amounted to over \$31,800.

The projects described in paragraphs 11-13 below were initiated by the Agency in cooperation with government institutions of Artsakh. They were designed to make a significant contribution to increasing the level of Artsakh's energy and food security. However, due to the total blockade of Artsakh by the Azerbaijani regime, these projects could not be implemented.

11. SOLAR WATER HEATERS FOR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The project involved the installation of water heaters in 70 kindergartens and medical institutions, as well as in an orphanage. Its implementation was designed to significantly reduce the dependence of these institutions on external sources of electricity and increase their autonomy, which was especially important given the energy blockade.

12. NEW LIFE FOR GREENHOUSE FARMS OF ARTSAKH

The project involved equipping about 20 greenhouse farms with a total area of more than 14,000 sq m with the systems necessary to increase their efficiency (heating etc.) and achieve a year-round harvest. The implementation partner of the project was Artsakh's Ministry of Agriculture.

13. SOLAR POWER PLANT FOR ARTSAKH'S MEDICAL CENTER

The goal of the project was to create a backup source of electricity for the country's main medical institution – Artsakh's Medical Center. It was planned to create a solar hybrid power plant with a capacity of 517 KW, ensuring the operation of vital departments of the center for up to 12 hours in the event of disruption of the electricity supply.

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROJECTS FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2023

From June 15, the blockade of Artsakh by Azerbaijan became all-encompassing when even cargo transportation by the Russian Peacekeeping Contingent and the International Committee of the Red Cross was not allowed through the Lachin corridor. In those conditions, the continuation of most of the Agency's projects to provide the assistance to the population of Artsakh became almost impossible. Due to the ongoing energy blockade and the inability to import food and fuel, the population of Artsakh was facing a humanitarian catastrophe. Hence, we had to reconsider our plans and implement several emergency relief initiatives at a cost of about \$278,600. The description of the most important efforts is given below:

- Setting up soup kitchens for those in need (every day more than 500 people were provided with full hot meals);
- Production of wood-burning stoves for the population to cope with the coming cold weather;
- Provision of food packages with high-calorie foods to all pregnant women;
- Manufacture of horse-drawn carts for delivering food from villages to cities;
- Construction of 15 shelters in the village of Aterk of the Martakert region;
- Assistance to the farms breeding rabbits and poultry;

- Manufacture of equipment for producing gas and liquid fuel from household waste;
- Renovation of the monastery complex of St. Hakob and the village of Kolatak;
- Acquisition of electric vehicles from local sources to provide transportation for medical appointments for pregnant women as well as people with acute health problems and disabilities (more than 1000 cases).

DIRECT SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Agency provided direct financial support to people in special cases - families of the dead, those in need of urgent medical care, and other similar cases. The amount of this assistance for the entire period was about \$66,800.

SUPPORT FOR PARTNER PROJECTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE ALLIANCE OF YOUTH CLUBS IN ARTSAKH

The Alliance of Youth Clubs was formed by a group of young like-minded people with the goal of discovering and developing young leaders in the regions outside Stepanakert, so that they could unite and mobilize society to solve urgent problems. The Alliance's activities included volunteer, sports, extreme, cultural and educational programs, and other projects. During 2023 the Alliance implemented the following projects involving a total of more than a thousand participants:

- survival skills program,
- emergency medical care courses,
- self-management courses,
- folk songs and dances,
- mind games,
- Delivery by volunteers of food to pensioners and disabled people living on their own.

The total amount of support for the Alliance's activities amounted to about \$87,600.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Agency supported the MUNK technology camp, organized by the "I Educational Foundation" for 210 children with the aim of introducing them to the IT sector, providing them with basic skills and developing their algorithmic thinking.

The Agency also supported a children's camp by the Davit Ghazaryan Charity Foundation.

The total amount of this assistance was about \$10,600.

Thus, over the reporting period, the Territorial Development Agency "We are our mountains", together with partners, implemented projects and programs worth more than \$2 million.

Projects*	Cost (USD)	Number of beneficiaries
Social impact projects	\$ 1 279 401	
1. <i>Artsakh food reserve replenishment</i>	\$ 449 807	20 000
2. <i>Assisting the energy system of Artsakh</i>	\$ 186 741	38 300
3. <i>Gifts for children of Artsakh</i>	\$ 171 674	12 000
4. <i>Mobile primary health care teams</i>	\$ 109 802	20 000
5. <i>Restoration of residential buildings in artsakh (financed by partners)</i>	-	200
6. <i>“Educational Kaleidoscope” Artsakh festival for life-long learning</i>	\$ 45 567	500
7. <i>“David Bek” sport and tactical games</i>	\$ 84 000	120
8. <i>Call-center “3333”</i>	\$ 10 728	4 000
9. <i>“Our Mountains” community center</i>	\$ 189 234	5 000
10. <i>Radio “Our Mountains”</i>	\$ 31 848	70 000
11. <i>Solar water headers for social institutions (initial project cost – \$ 159 160)</i>	-	
12. <i>New life for greenhouse farms of Artsakh (initial project cost – \$ 266 000)</i>	-	
13. <i>Solar power plant for Artsakh’s medical center (initial project cost – \$ 835 000)</i>	-	
Emergency relief projects	\$ 278 563	5 300
Direct social support	\$ 66 848	16
Support for partner projects	\$ 98 127	1500
Public events	\$ 179 228	
Other projects	\$ 23 638	
Project management and administration	\$ 404 787	
Total	\$ 2 330 592	

* This report does not include communication and expert consulting services that were not funded by the Agency, but were carried out with the involvement of the founders and the Agency’s team.

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